

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-27 are pending in this application. Claims 1-15 are canceled by the present response without prejudice, and new claims 16-27 are submitted herein.

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over applicants' admitted art and U.S. patent 6,618,157 to Coyle et al. (herein "Coyle"). Claims 3-6 and 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over applicants' admitted art and Coyle and U.S. patent 6,370,631 to Dye.

Addressing first the rejection of claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, that rejection is obviated by the present response as claims 1-13 are canceled by the present response. Further, the newly submitted claims are believed to be fully supported by the original specification, as discussed in further detail below.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over applicants' admitted art and Coyle, and the further rejection to claims 3-6 and 9-12 further in view of Dye, those rejections are traversed by the present response.

New independent claim 16 is directed to an image forming apparatus for processing image data. The image forming apparatus includes, and with reference to Figure 2 in the present specification as a non-limiting example, an image data processing unit 108 that includes a graphics port 106 and a peripheral device interconnection port 109, the peripheral device interconnection port 109 configured to be connected to a print engine 110. Further, a first image data memory 104 is provided. A unit 103, shown in Figure 2 as a north bridge (NB), is connected to the graphics port 106 of the image data processing unit 108 and has a function to interface between the image data processing unit 108 and the first image data

memory 104. Further, the first image data memory 104 is connected to the image data processing unit 108 via the unit 103.

New independent claim 16 sets forth such an image forming apparatus, new independent claim 20 is also directed to such an image forming apparatus but recites certain limitations with “means plus function” limitations, and new independent claim 24 sets forth a method of transferring image data. The features recited in the new claims are believed to be clearly supported for example in Figure 2 in the present specification as discussed above.

According to the new claims as currently written, an interface unit is provided between an image data processing unit and a memory. Thus, that one interfacing unit is an interface that interfaces between a memory and an image data processing unit, and can additionally interface to a central processing unit. Applicants respectfully submit the applied art does not teach or suggest the use of such a unit.

First, as clearly shown for example in Figure 1 in the admitted art no unit such as the interface unit, e.g. north bridge 103, is provided.

Moreover, no teachings in Coyle can overcome the above-noted deficiencies in the admitted art. More particularly, in Figures 1 and 2 Coyle does not disclose or suggest any units such as claimed that function as an interface between the image data processing unit a first image data memory. In such ways, Coyle cannot overcome the deficiencies in the admitted art.

Moreover, no teachings in Dye overcome the above-noted deficiencies of the admitted art in view of Coyle.

In view of these foregoing comments, applicants respectfully submit new claims 16-27 as currently written distinguish over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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